

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-15, and 17-30 were previously pending in the application. Claims 3, 17, and 29-30 are canceled, claims 1, 4, 8, 15, 18, and 22 are amended, and new claims 31-32 are added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4-15, 18-28, and 31-32 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Miscellaneous Amendments

To avoid issues of claiming non-statutory subject matter, claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method is a network-manager-implemented method in which the recited steps are implemented by the network manager. Support for these amendments is found, for example, in previously pending claim 15. None of these amendments were made to overcome any prior art. Similarly, new claim 31 is also directed to a network-manager-implemented method in which the recited steps are implemented by the network manager.

Claim Rejections and Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph 3 of the office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 7, 10-15, 21, and 24-28 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinomiya in view of Arslan and Ishibashi. In paragraph 4, the Examiner objected to claims 3-6, 8-9, 17-20, and 22-23 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In paragraph 5, the Examiner allowed claims 29 and 30. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are allowable.

Claims 1 and 15

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 3. As such, with the exception of the previously described clarification that the method is implemented by a network manager, currently amended claim 1 is equivalent to previously pending claim 3 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 1 is allowable. Since claims 4-14 depend variously from claim 1, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the features of previously pending claim 17. As such, currently amended claim 15 is equivalent to previously pending claim 17 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 15 is allowable. Since claims 18-28 depend variously from claim 15, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Note that claims 4 and 18 have been amended to conform with the cancellation of claims 3 and 17, respectively, and that claims 8 and 22 have been amended to conform with the amendment of claims 1 and 15, respectively.

New Claims 31 and 32

With the exception of the previously described clarification that the method is implemented by a network manager, new claim 31 is equivalent to previously pending claim 6 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 31 is allowable.

New claim 32 is equivalent to previously pending claim 20 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 32 is allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Fees

During the pendency of this application, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment of any filing fees for presentation of extra claims under 37 CFR 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Mendelsohn, Drucker, & Associates, P.C. Deposit Account No. 50-0782.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time if not submitted with the reply.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 05/29/2009
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